

and if you find that you have wasted much of the Lord's time, remember that another year is before you and let the experiences of the past be read to some profit at least. It is too late to recall and use aright the moments that have been wasted during the year 1897, but it is not too late to begin using time according to God's eternal purpose.

THERE is much talk about the great need of the day. What is this great need, or what are the great needs of the day? Some one says it is money. Not so, the church has money enough to support and support well, all her institutions and do a flourishing missionary business, if such it may be called. Is it intellect? The church has need of the most cultured intellects among the sons of men, but this is not our greatest need. What then is it? It is a larger faith in the larger Christ. What we need above all other things is the Christ of the early Christians, the Christ of Calvary, the Christ of God, the resurrected, triumphant Christ, the living personal Savior. We need more of him in our hearts, in our lives, in all we do or say. We need to make his life our life, live close to him, in him and by him. Let every member of the church do this and the church will become a mighty power to the speedy conversion of the world. If we were asked today what is the world's greatest need, or its one need, we would answer, *Christ*. So it was when the babe of Bethlehem was born, so it is today, so it will be until humanity is redeemed from the curse of sin.

#### TAKE CARE OF THE LAMBS

It is an old, yet a true saying, "Take care of the cents and the dollars will take care of themselves." This also is true, "Take care of the moments and the hours and days and years will take care of themselves." The thought is that a proper care and regard for little things will insure us the larger things of life. This is an every day experience and observation. Why should not this rule obtain as regards our children? It does. "Take care of the children and the men and women will take care of themselves," is as true a saying as the one in reference to dollars and cents. If saving the cents means the saving of dollars, then the saving of children also means the saving of men and women. "How do you get such beautiful sheep?" was a question put to a farmer. "I take care of the lambs," was the reply. If he had not taken care of the lambs it is doubtful whether he would have had any *sheep to feed*. A pastor of many years' experience said, "If I had opportunity to repeat my ministry I would give my chief attention to the young." These are suggestive thoughts, not for the ministry only, but for parents, church officers, Sunday-school teachers, and all who have to do with young people. We must not despair with old people. It is possible to lead them to Christ, but it

is not easy to do so. The easiest time and the best time to win hearts for Christ is while they are young. Take good care of the lambs and the farmer will have beautiful sheep. Take good care of the children, the little boys and girls, lead them in the right way, bring them early to Christ, feed them on the bread of heaven, and the next generation will be a generation of sober, Christian men and women.

#### THE FIVE HUNDRED

When we started the 500 list a few months ago some of our friends wrote us discouraging letters, stating that we were attempting, not the impossible, but the improbable. We had faith in our friends that a special effort would be made, and further that such an effort would bring us the 500. We have not been disappointed. Our friends have nobly stood by us and we thank them for the interest manifested in the cause of our literature. We do not yet have the 500 but we are so near that a few weeks more will reach the mark. We have the following to report:

Walter Clark,	2	Miscellaneous	3
J. Wolfe,	1	Total,	28
V. S. Bentz,	1	Previously reported,	430
W. H. Yagel,	1		
J. F. Koontz,	20	Total to date,	458

As will be seen it requires but 42 more to make the 500, and these we feel reasonably sure of getting. When the renewals begin to come in there will be sufficient new among them to make the number. Let us do this quickly, then drop the above heading which has appeared in each issue for the last two months or more.

#### WHERE IT LEADS

Whither is popular Christianity drifting? Below is a clipping from one of the local papers, this city, describing a "spelling bee" in one of our churches the day after Thanksgiving:

The spelling bee given by the Epworth League at the Methodist church Friday night of last week afforded much amusement for those who witnessed or took part in the old time sport. I. H. Good and D. N. Hiffner led the opposing forces and victory perched upon the banner of the latter who was the last man to go down under the volley from McGuffey's. The final syllable contest also made much fun and proved more puzzling than straight spelling.

Is the house of God the place for such entertainments? To us it seems a place too sacred for anything that is intended for amusement only. The house of God, dedicated and consecrated to the worship and service of God, is in our judgment not the place for "much fun." Are these things really necessary to hold the young people? If so then he who said, "If I be lifted up will draw all men unto me," was mistaken as to the attractive power of the cross. There is a great plea for what is known as "innocent amusements." But where is the lim-

it? Who shall draw the line? In these days it is difficult to discriminate between innocent and harmful amusements, and the safest thing to do is to leave "hands off." What is innocent amusement? Some call a game of cards or a social dance innocent amusement. But where do these things lead? The following shows one of the results of indulging in these innocent amusements:

Two ladies, of different denominations, both teachers of Bible classes of young women, a short time since in conversation stated that the members of their classes proposed that there be a party in which the feet of the young women should be auctioned off for the benefit of the church;—the scheme being to expose the feet and sell the owner to the highest bidder as a companion at the supper table.

It would seem impossible that such a proposal could come from respectable people outside the church, much less do we look for them from members, and teachers of Bible classes at that. Such a proposition from those who are leaders of Bible classes is a sad commentary on the state of the churches to which they belong and the sphere in which they move. It could come only from a low social and moral grade of people, and is to be deplored by all true followers of the immaculate Jesus. There are a thousand devices outside the church that appeal only to the lusts of the flesh. Everything done within the church should be of a nature to promote purity of heart and life. The call to-day is for separation. "Come out from among them and be ye separate," is the cry of God's true prophet. Let there be inscribed over the doors of our churches and our hearts and lives, "Holiness to the Lord."

#### HERE IS ENTERPRISE

We are in receipt of a nicely printed card from brother R. R. Teeter, announcing a series of meetings to begin December 26. On one side of the card and along the edges are appropriate scripture references, and in the center the following subjects: God's Battles, Glory of the Righteous, Bible Non-conformity, Five Kings, No Difference, God's Love Tested, Man's Love Tested, Wages of Sin, What Lack I Yet, Come, All in All, The Hidden Life, Who Needs Salvation, If, What is Your Life, Without and Within, What think Ye of Christ. On the other side of the card is the great Commission, diagrammed according to some standard author, at the head of which are these words: "Christ gave but one commission to baptize. We base our teachings on that commission, baptize only one way, and are consistent in not accepting two ways." There are also scriptural lights on doctrinal points as follows:

Sound Doctrine, Rom. 6: 17; Eph. 4: 14.  
Baptism, Triune Immersion, Matt. 28: 19.  
Lord's Supper, Matt. 19: 26; 1 Cor. 11.